MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 JANUARY 1982

Israel

Haig Visit -- On his arrival for further talks on Palestinian autonomy and the peace process, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig was welcomed by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Jerusalem radio reported. According to another radio report, during their meeting Shamir quoted to Haig a series of Egyptian statements favoring a Palestinian state in the territories and supporting the idea that the autonomy model should be acceptable to the PLO. Shamir emphasized that an agreement would be impossible if Egypt adhered to such a position. In a comment carried by the radio, Interior Minister Yosef Burg said that some of the ideas presented by the United States to bridge the gaps can "promote things," while on others there will be arguments.

Jerusalem radio reported that in a talk with Haig Prime Minister Menahem Begin rejected the proposal to allow east Jerusalem Arabs to vote in the autonomy council elections because the city is not within the autonomous area. According to the radio, Haig proposed that the council consist of 40 members and be empowered to issue urban regulations, but Begin said Israel would continue to oppose legislative powers for the council, and both Begin and Burg said Israel's objection to an enlarged council is designed to preclude the impression that it is a legislative body.

According to a later Jerusalem radio report, Burg told correspondents that in the talks with Haig Israel reiterated its right to settle in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza.

Agreement With Egypt -- ITIM reported that Israel and Egypt signed an agreement whereby Israel will build four Egyptian border posts with Egyptian financing.

Sudan

Numayri in Aswan -- MENA reported that in a press conference after his meeting in Aswan with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, President Ja'far Numayri claimed to be completely confident and assured about security and stability in Sudan. He said the recent dismissal of 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil and 22 officers was part of the process of "continuous change and reorganization" affecting those who have nothing new to contribute to the nation. According to the law, he added, senior officers are retired after 2 or 3 years in order to give a chance to suitably qualified colleagues. Describing the recent school strikes as a victory, Numayri added: "Let the students go on strike." He said there is a new awareness in Sudan, adding that democracy is a legitimate right.

Noting that the plan for U.S. military aid is still current, he emphasized that the United States has not delivered the first consignment of its aid program to Sudan.

In a statement on his talks with Mubarak, Numayri said that Sudan and Egypt are drawing closer and closer. According to MENA, the meeting was held at Mubarak's request to study Sudan's economic and military needs before his forthcoming visit to the United States and Europe.

Numayri returned to Khartoum on the afternoon of 27 January, SUNA reported.

Internal Situation -- SUNA reported that in a speech to a popular meeting in Waw, Maj Gen Qasam Allah Rasas, chairman of the Transitional Higher Executive Council for the Southern Region, stressed the need to preserve peace in the south and appealed to the armed forces to maintain law and order in the region. Citing a Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU) official, SUNA also noted that President Numayri will meet shortly with a number of civil leaders.

Egypt

Mubarak on Haig, Aid -- In a lengthy interview with AL-AKHBAR, President Mubarak said he was extremely frank with Secretary of State Haig in their last meeting and will be so again when he receives him next time. Mubarak said he welcomes Haig's visit but wonders what new element the secretary of state can be bringing with him. The president also said he wants more flexibility in U.S. economic aid, which needs a "new look."

Soviet Relations -- The London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported that Egypt has not yet decided whether to accept the Soviet offer to improve the performance of 2 of the Aswan High Dam's 12 turbines. Citing Electricity Minister Muhammad Mahir Abaza, the paper said neogitations are still in progress. ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT noted that speculation has linked the participation of Soviet technicians in developing the dam turbines with the normalization of Egyptian-Soviet relations.

Nonmention of 'Mutiny' -- Tripoli radio claimed that a serious mutiny occurred at a military base near Alexandria. However, monitored Egyptian media have not mentioned any such incident.

Libya

Allegation on U.S. Forces in Chad -- A People's Foreign Liaison Bureau statement carried by JANA alleged that elements of U.S. forces are among some of the African peacekeeping units in Chad. Warning that such a presence will place Chad within the sphere of international conflict and terming it a "grave development" that Libya cannot ignore, the statement called upon the OAU and fraternal African countries to "shoulder their responsibility in this respect."

Denial of Contacts With Egypt -- JANA reported that Libya categorically denied Kuwaiti press reports about alleged contacts between Cairo and Tripoli. Citing a statement issued by Libya's political mission in Kuwait, JANA said Libya's position toward Egypt is not a matter of bilateral disputes or personal attitudes, but depends on Libya's pan-Arab commitment and the fact that Egypt had thrown itself in the lap of "Zionism and U.S. imperialism." According to the statement, Egypt could return to the Arab fold if it abrogated all ties with the "Zionist enemy" and U.S. policy.

Syria

In written answers to questions by Beirut's MONDAY MORNING, Syria's ambassador to Washington described Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's recent visit to Moscow as "very successful" and added that the Soviet Union restated its readiness to consolidate Syria's defensive capabilities to enable it to shoulder its responsibilities.

Iran

A Tehran radio commentary claimed that the construction of a highway between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia will be the third step toward total annexation of Bahrain island by Saudi Arabia. The radio claimed that the United States supports the annexation of Bahrain by Saudi Arabia for political, security and strategic reasons.

Tehran radio's Arabic Service asserted that the military alliance among the six Gulf Cooperation Council states is aimed at Iran and popular Islamic movements in the region.

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TANJUG INTERVIEWS QADER ON ARMY'S ROLE

LD271046 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0937 GMT 27 Jan 82

[By TANJUG special correspondent Breten Petrovic]

[Text] Kabul, 27 Jan (TANJUG) -- The Soviet Armed Forces will not withdraw from Afghanistan, despite resolutions adopted by the United Nations and nonaligned countries, as long as the Afghan Army is not strong enough to itself deal with rebels aided, it is claimed here, by world imperialism.

The recently appointed acting defense minister, Col. Gen. 'Abdol Qader, has told TANJUG that, under the present circumstances, it is not at all essential how long such a process will take.

Gen. Qader was in command of the military units which, eight years ago, toppled the monarchy and brought President Daud to power and, in April 1978, carried out a military coup that toppled Daud and made the United People's Democratic Party take power over in Afghanistan.

At the time of the entry of Soviet troops into Afghanistan in December 1979, Qader was in prison waiting for execution. Then, Gen. Qader was appointed acting defense minister with the aim of rebuilding confidence among the population, particularly among the young, in the Afghan Army and preventing its further drop-out.

In December 1979, the Afghan Army had some 100,000 troops, whereas today, according to some claims, it has no more than 40,000 troops. However, Gen. Qader sees the problem of deserting from the Afghan Army as a problem already overcome and one which has no essential influence on the further growth and strengthening of Afghanistan's armed forces.

Observers in Kabul have different explanations. Many troops have deserted, they say, from the Afghan Army and sided with the rebels. Besides, it is claimed, some 18,000 troops have been sent abroad for training, primarily to the Soviet Union.

There are two systems for filling up army ranks in Afghanistan, Gen. Qader underlined. All those fully grown are dutybound to report to military authorities. However, this process has not gone in line with wishes, Gen. Qader admitted. Another system consists in recruiting voluntaries from among those who previously had been ideologically trained at party and youth schools.

Also underway is the process of convincing leaders of many Afghan tribes to defend their villages and territories for themselves. Commanders and soldiers of regular army units, then members of the voluntary army party and youth cadres engaged in field work legally or illegally, take part in this process of bringing the government and people closer together, as this drive is officially called.

Gen. Qader is deeply convinced that the Afghan Army will grow into a force capable of defending the revolution by itself. He was unable, however, to fix the time needed for that growth, also emphasizing that the Soviet troops will be ever present in the meantime, offering all aid needed. In (?higher) relief, the Afghan Army will have a significant role in the future, like that played by the Cuban and Vietnamese armies.

Babrak Karmal, president of the Revolutionary Council and secretary-general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, stated last May:

"Not far away is the day when our army will become a strong and energetic army capable of defending peace and security not only in Afghanistan, but in the region as well."

At that time, Babrak Karmal did not say which region he had in mind.

INDIAN EXPRESS ON WORLD BANK AID REDUCTION

BK271621 Delhi THE INDIAN EXPRESS in English 22 Jan 82 p 5

[Editorial: "Aid Portents"]

[Text] The World Bank president, Mr. A.W. Clausen, has only confirmed what was evident for some time, that India would have to face a drastic cut in the promised concessional credit from the International Development Association [IDA] this year. IDA's funding ability has been badly impaired by a sharp reduction in the United States' contribution to its sixth replenishment. Though the situation has been saved to some extent by other donor countries, the available funds ($2.6 billion against the expected $4.1 billion) are insufficient to meet the agency's commitments for 1982, as pointed out by Mr Clausen. India, which is the largest beneficiary of the sixth replenishment, and for good reasons, is being asked to suffer the heaviest penalty. It can now expect only about $840 million in concessional aid, almost half the promised amount of $1,600 million.

Mr Clausen has tried to soften the blow by promising to make up for the shortfall through World Bank loans. But the latter is a costly option carrying an interest rate of about 12 percent, compared to the nominal service charge of 0.75 percent on IDA aid. It appears, however, that the World Bank may at best double its credit from the committed $500 million, which would still leave a wide gap. And it is not as if the World Bank loans are available for the asking. Though Mr Clausen has made complimentary remarks about India's progress in certain fields, the World Bank is keenly aware of the poor performance in several vital sectors. Its reluctance to aid power projects till state electricity boards improve their financial performance is a case in point.

Evidently, the real purpose of Mr Clausen's visit is to make a first-hand appraisal of Indian economy. At present, loan applications for 36 Indian projects -- the request adding up to about $5 billion -- are pending with the World Bank. Its aid policy has undergone a drastic change since Mr Clausen took over. He has made it clear that the World Bank is no Robin Hood. One hopes that his assessment is favourable to India, with its pressing aid requirements for the sixth plan.

TALKS WITH BANGLADESH ON RIVER TRANSPORT FAIL

BK280302 Delhi THE INDIAN EXPRESS in English 23 Jan 82 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI) -- Talks between India and Bangladesh on the revision of the 1972 protocol of inland water transit and trade have failed.

The four-day talks, which began on January 19, ended here on Friday without any agreement between the Bangladesh delegation led by Mr Mohammad Afzal, joint secretary, shipping, ports and inland water transport, Bangladesh, and the Indian delegation led by Mr Yashwant Sinha, joint secretary in the Shipping and Transport Ministry.

An official spokesman said that the talks were in continuation of the earlier India-Bangladesh negotiations held in Dacca in August last year. Talks on the issue might be held in Dacca later to sort out the differences.

He said the 1980 protocol which was scheduled to expire in February this year was likely to be extended further through diplomatic channels.

This agreement, which had replaced the 1972 protocol, provided for the fresh negotiations for a new protocol to replace it, he said.

Serious differences between the two delegations over certain clauses of the old agreement, particularly relating to revised charges payable by India for the utilisation of Bangladesh inland river water transport facilities, are believed to be the major cause for the failure of the talks.

MINISTRY OFFICIAL ON FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY

LD271608 Tehran IRNA in English 1448 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 27 Jan (IRNA) -- The deputy for international and economic affairs of the Foreign Ministry, Hoseyn Kazempur Ardabili, said today that the objective behind the foreign economic policy of the country was to transfer the centre of foreign trade from Europe and the United States to Asia and Africa.

Speaking to IRNA he also said that the intention was to draw technical and economic needs of the country from all over the world thus employing the best possibilities and at the same time become invulnerable towards any possible economic sanctions. He further stressed the need for economic planning in the country and said that the direction of the economic relations of the country must be cohesive with the foreign policy. In this regard, he added, Iran has decreased the amount of economic cooperation with Western countries and had shifted to other countries. The degree of cooperation and the economic policy of the country, he said, must be altered towards Muslim non-aligned countries and countries of the Third World and he stressed that this policy must be vigorously continued. For instance, Ardabili pointed out, the balance of payments of Iran with Western countries had been decreased from 86 percent last year to 67 percent during the first nine months of the current Iranian year (March 21-Nov 21 1981). At the same time this percentage has been increased from 11.6 percent to 24.3 with countries outside the orbit of the two main power blocs.

He further reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran preferred to establish economic relations with Muslim Asian and African countries which have the ability to cooperate in the needed areas and at the same time not having any ties with countries such as the United States, the usurper regime of Qods, South Africa and countries with similar policies.

As for economic cooperation with Eastern bloc countries he said economic cooperation with these countries would be based on mutual respect for economic independence and freedom of action. In the case of the world economic groupings, he said that in fact relations with such markets were independent because any economic cooperation with power blocs created obligations in cooperation which would ultimately result in the change of the economic and industrial structure of the country. He said the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed any market within the framework of the Muslim countries of the region. The intention was to create a balance and equilibrium in economic exchanges with other countries.

Speaking about the policy of exporting other goods other than oil he said that the major factor was not to limit oil revenues to only a few countries. He said that by decreasing consumption and increasing domestic production, the foreign exchange needs of the country would be halted and thus the way would be paved for the export of goods. Referring to repayment of loans extended to other countries by Iran prior of the Islamic revolution, Ardabili said that parts of these loans were being paid back regularly. However, he said that some of them, like the one extended to South Africa under the regime of the defunct shah, had not had tangible results due to political issues. But, he added, measures were underway in the Foreign Affairs Ministry and high council on investment in this respect. He continued that other loans were connected to the execution of certain projects such as the building of atomic power stations, which, due to suspension of the projects and discussion of these loans in special courts, the loans have been blocked. He stressed that efforts were underway to attain them.

In conclusion he said that economic missions would be dispatched to Sweden, Finland, Austria, Brazil, Argentina, Cuba, Greece and aggressive Arab countries such as Libya, Syria and Algeria. At the same time delegations were expected from India, Pakistan, Turkey, the German Democratic Republic, Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia and probably from the People's Socialist Republic of Albania for talks on the expansion of economic relations.

IRNA REPORTS ON GCC DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING

LD271944 Tehran IRNA in English 1831 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 27 Jan (IRNA) -- According to reports from Riyadh, the Saudi Arabian defence minister said, after the two-day meeting of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, that a secret agreement was made in the meeting on creating a joint military umbrella in the Persian Gulf region. Defense Minister Abd al-'Aziz, who was speaking at a news conference, said that all decisions were made unanimously and added that the outcome of the meeting would remain secret. The Saudi minister, who is also the secretary general of the council, had said before the meeting that the interests of the (?regional countries) would be totally in harmony with those of the West, especially the U.S. On the other hand, the Saudi regime had urged all Arab countries not to take a firm stand against the U.S. after the latter vetoed a U.N. resolution calling for sanction against the Zionist regime for the latter's annexation of the Golan Heights.

In the meantime, a number of Arab statesmen and Arabic publications have tried to portray the Islamic Republic as the main enemy of the countries in the [words indistinct] called on member countries attending the recent council meeting to consider drawing up plans for a joint mobile military force to confront this "threat."

TEHRAN: GCC ALLIANCE TO CONFRONT REVOLUTION

GF271036 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The defense ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] will apply the final touches today to the Gulf military alliance of six Gulf countries. After forming this alliance, the masses in the region will raise and emphasize the question: Against whom will the alliance be aimed?

There are only four possible targets: First, the alliance could be aimed at the United States; second, at the Soviet Union; third, the Zionist entity; or fourth, the Muslim forces represented by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the popular Islamic movements in the region. In order to discuss these possibilities, we should tackle each separately so that we can discuss their special dimensions.

If anyone believes the alliance is directed against the United States, he brands himself with ignorance, poor information and ill evaluation. We need only mention a simple idea on the role that the Persian Gulf plays within U.S. interests and the interests of U.S. allies.

The Gulf countries constitute the largest pool of oil in the world. Their oil reserves can provide fuel for Western industry for 25 years, if not for half a century. They supply two-thirds of the needs of Japan, which is the strongest ally of the United States. In addition, they supply the Western bloc with three-fifths of its oil and the United States with one-sixth of its oil needs.

Therefore, the region weighs heavily in Washington's evaluation. The United States' interest in the region and that of its regimes is similar to its interest in its own 51 [as heard] states. Washington realizes that securing the oil wealth of a region as large as the United States and with a population of New York City would not cost it anything except the expense of protecting the regimes of the region from toppling. Thus Washington's policy is to protect and not make enemies of or exterminate the Gulf regimes.

Some try to philosophize that this Gulf action is directed against the Zionist entity, the principal ally of the United States. They theorize that the defensive alliance of the Gulf regimes is directed against Zionist attack.

The question is: Is it in the Zionists' favor to launch an attack on U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf, or is it logical for the Zionist entity to try to topple the regimes that work for the welfare of the United States and NATO? When we discuss this opinion within the framework of U.S.-Zionist relations and U.S.-Gulf relations, we find that it would be impossible for the Zionist entity to launch any attack on the Gulf countries because such an attack would above all threaten U.S. interests and then the intimate relationships between the Gulf countries and the United States.

Another alternative on which U.S. circles and regimes and journalists [words indistinct] orbiting in them focus says that there is a Soviet threat to the Gulf. According to them, this is the reason for the establishment of the council which, besides its economic dimension, includes other dimensions as well. One of these is the military dimension in order to confront the imminent Soviet threat.

Actually, three facts refute this and the other claims. The first is Brezhnev's approval of the establishment of the council and of military cooperation with the plan he announced in India in 1980 which was then called the Brezhnev Gulf plan. In it he called upon the Gulf countries to cooperate for the welfare of the region. The second fact is illustrated by the recent stands the Soviets have adopted indirectly by supporting the Saudi plan and through the congratulatory cables that Brezhnev received from King Khalid on the anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution, which consolidated the surprising rapprochement between the Soviet Union and its alleged principal enemy.

The third fact rules out any Soviet attempt to launch an aggression against the Gulf. This fact is the current political and military balance between the Eastern and Western blocs today, which rules out any attack by any country in view of this balance.

One final possibility remains and clarifies the course of the Gulf issue from beginning to end. Observers know that the idea of the GCC was conceived at the Amman and At-Ta'if conferences that were dedicated to the confrontation of the victorious Islamic revolution. During these two conferences, the GCC undertook to assume part of the responsibility for effectively confronting the Islamic revolution in Iran and the region. The Gulf regimes began to deal with the Islamic revolution in Iran and in their countries as one revolution. Thus some of these regimes charge that any popular action among the masses of the region emanates from Tehran. From this rapprochement and the Kuwaiti-Soviet and UAE-Soviet rapprochement, we can determine the nature of the Soviet Union's relations with the Gulf regimes.

In a desperate attempt, these regimes tried to snuff out the light of Islam that has begun to glow in the region, forgetting that God will perfect His light, that God defends the believers and that the disbelievers have no guardian. "They desire to extinguish the light of God with their mouths; but God will permit nothing except that He will perfect His light, though the disbelievers may dislike it." [Koranic verse]

TEHRAN REPORTS SAUDI ARABIA ANNEXING BAHRAIN

LD272212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] The United States referred to the plan to annex Bahrain to Saudi Arabia as an expansion of links between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, and expressed its support for the plan. In a commentary, entitled "The Need To Expand Links Between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia," the Voice of America pretended that all the indications are that Bahrain must have much stronger links with Saudi Arabia. According to this radio station, a 30-km highway will be constructed between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia with the help of Western multinational companies. Foreign news agencies report that this highway is supposed to be completed by 1986. For this purpose, a construction center will be erected on the small island of Umm an-Naysan, situated within 3 km from the island of Bahrain.

Experts on Middle Eastern political issues believe this action will be the third step toward total annexation of Bahrain to Saudi Arabia. The first step was the unravelling of a fabricated and alleged coup d'etat in Bahrain which, according to a previously planned program, Iran was accused of hatching.

The second step was the signing of a security and military agreement in which Saudi Arabia has formally undertaken responsibility for the defense of Bahrain and the maintenance of order on the island. All this has taken place (?at a time) when, according to the statements of informed Western circles, more than 1,500 Bahrain citizens have so far been arrested and imprisoned for opposing the ruler of this island.

According to various news agencies, Saudi Arabia has agreed to meet all the expenses for construction of the above-mentioned highway. At the same time, Bahrain's minister of development and industry, Yusuf Shirawi, said in an interview broadcast by radio America [VOA]: Saudi Arabia is much larger than Bahrain and the flood of Saudi people to the night time leisure centers in Bahrain is not an important issue. Of course, even without this highway Saudi people can come to this island by means of the 20 daily flights between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, and can enjoy themselves in its free environment.

According to Arab circles in Beirut, America supports the practical and informal annexation of Bahrain to Saudi Arabia for the following reasons:

1. The ruler of Bahrain is seriously facing an ever-increasing protest from the people of this island; the people of Bahrain (?unanimously) demand his removal.

2. The annexation of Bahrain to Saudi Arabia will make it easier to defend its internal security.

3. By annexing Bahrain to Saudi Arabia, the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force will be able to take action more easily in order to put down any kind of disturbances.

4. The strategic position of Bahrain will enable Saudi Arabia to have a better control on the movement of shipping in the Persian Gulf.

On the other hand, the radio of the occupying regime in Al-Quds, quoting AL-KHALIJ, said: Bahrain's Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman al-Khalifah has announced that the authorities in Bahrain will not hesitate at all to ask for assistance from Saudi Arabia. The prime minister of Bahrain has called upon all the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region to note that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a reactionary and superficial [qeshri] system; therefore, it is to be considered as a danger to the region and relations with it must be severed.

On the other hand, the daily AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, printed in Bahrain, wrote: The Islamic revolution is a serious threat to all the governments in the region.

It is necessary to mention that the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran are strongly in favor of the preservation of stability and security in the Persian Gulf region and of independence of the shaykhdoms, and have warned America against any kind of interference.

NVOI ON PRO-U.S. ALLIANCE IN PERSIAN GULF

TA271650 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Unattributed commentary: "Maintaining Peace and Calm in the Region Is a Vital Matter"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: As in the past, world-devouring America is continuing on a large scale its plots against our revolution and Islamic Republic.

According to evidence and statements by U.S. official authorities themselves, all indications are that U.S. imperialism is seeking a suitable opportunity to strike at the Islamic Republic and our nation's glorious revolution in order to bring to power an outwardly Islamic government in our country similar to the regime of the Saudis or the executioner Ziaul Haq.

America's plots are planned and implemented in various aspects, among which one can cite the concoction of an allegedly defensive pact with the participation of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Jordan and other countries. The allegation of the United States, the principle planner of this scheme and its stage manager, is that allegedly the presence of revolutionary Iran in the Persian Gulf region endangers the so-called interests of the United States and the security of the countries of this region. The baselessness of such allegations by the United States, which is thousands of miles away from the Persian Gulf, is obvious to all. Our nation and Islamic Republic not only do not have any conflict or quarrel with any country and government, but rather have repeatedly stressed that the maintenance of honorable peace in our region is a vital matter.

The Islamic Republic's responsible officials have repeatedly emphasized that the maintenance of security in the Persian Gulf region concerns the countries of this region themselves and that under no circumstances and pretexts has an outside power the right to interfere in the affairs of this region.

In connection with this issue it is necessary to devote attention to remarks by Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, our homeland's president, during a meeting with a group of politico-ideological officials of the Islamic Republic's Navy. At this meeting, after referring to the imposed war on our nation, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i said: We have always supported peace and calm in the region, and have no argument about this. However, peace is only viable when it is not considered as either an encouragement or a reward for the aggressor. Any peace should embody a restoration of legitimate rights.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i then referred to the importance of the maintenance of calm in the Persian Gulf region and said: We would like to keep the Persian Gulf as a peaceful region where no war is waged and where the governments are able to peacefully use God-given blessings for the peoples. Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, our homeland's president, stressed that an ideal situation for us is one in which no one bothers anyone else, and where no one acts as policeman of the Persian Gulf. As the strongest and biggest nation in the Persian Gulf, the Islamic Republic has never wanted to be the region's gendarme. Consequently, any idea of becoming a gendarme of the Persian Gulf or having it dominated by others is futile.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, our country's president, stressed: We want a region which enjoys peace and calm, and this is something which we have stated everywhere.

These remarks by our country's president are in fact a reflection of the wishes and inclinations of our liberated homeland's revolutionary and struggling nation. In fact, nothing is more valuable and loftier for our combatant and liberated nation than peace, because it is only through peace and creative work that one can prepare the necessary facilities for development and prosperity, for the implementation of economic and cultural progress and for the establishment of a society based on justice.

There is no doubt that the view and stance of the nations and peoples of our region in connection with the region's peace and calm is also precisely the same. But what can one do when world-devouring America, relying on subservient and dependent regimes such as those of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, has not only disrupted peace and calm in our region, but is striving with the utmost power to fan the arms race and the flame of discord and dispute, and to replace the former gendarme, the annihilated and sinister imperial regime, with a new one.

America's feverish activities and its continuous plots against our Islamic Republic, and attempts to concoct multifarious military and aggressive pacts -- the strings of which are all pulled by the Pentagon's leaders -- are entirely for the purpose of continuing the unchallenged plunder of our country's oil riches by U.S. oil monopolies. The blow our nation's glorious revolution struck on the mouth of U.S. oil devourers has made the world devourers on the other side of the ocean berserk and frantic. The fear of these world devourers is not without foundation. The content of the Iranian revolution, which is a popular, anti-imperialist and Islamic revolution, is in fact a guiding beacon for the world of Islam and the countries of our region to rise against U.S. subservient regimes and to put an end to the domination of world-devouring America and its allies.

In the face of such feverish activities and dangerous plots by the United States and its puppet regimes against the peace and calm of our region, one should not remain idle and suffice with slogans and marches only. All efforts must be exerted toward moral unity and alliance of the nations of the region and the governments of the steadfastness front, and toward attracting the attention and friendship of the progressive world and of all countries that truly support peace and oppose military pacts. Peace and calm can only be maintained by collective struggle and the unity of all progressive and peace-loving forces in the world. Let us hope that our Islamic Republic will take consistent steps on this path.

REAGAN STATEMENT ON IRAN'S FUTURE ASSAILED

GF261050 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Unattributed commentary: "Let Them Not Cast a Shadow -- We Have No Other Wish"]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: Last night we referred briefly to the highlights of the statement President Reagan made on the first anniversary of his accession to power and the release of the U.S. spy hostages in Tehran.

We drew attention to his excellency's insolent remark that the United States can never remain indifferent toward Iran's future -- a remark that was intended to imply great favoritism on the part of the United States toward Iran. Last night, we also stated that the favor President Reagan has endeavored to do for Iran is in reality based on Western culture and civilization and not on individual initiative. We went on to explain that the West does not regard people who have not been nurtured on Western culture as human beings. In order to prove this view, we read passages from works by great jurisconsults in the political field who are known as the creators of international law in our times.

Yes, Excellency Reagan's remark that they cannot remain indifferent toward the future of the Islamic land of Iran is actually an expression of the Western world's view -- in short, an expression of the nature of Western culture and civilization. This is due to the fact that people in the West have been nurtured throughout history with the spirit of the crusades against the Muslims. Therefore, they cannot tolerate the unyielding Muslim stand against Christianity. It is because of this that they feel that they have the right to intervene in the non-Christian sector of the world, particularly in Muslim lands. As for the rights of Muslims, they believe that Muslims are uncivilized and insignificant creatures who should not be permitted to enjoy human rights. They should only be administered by the West in the service of the West.

Another matter that is having hypnotic effects on Muslims is the phrase printed on U.S. dollars which reads: In God We Trust. This has led to the belief that Americans are very religious and that they believe in God. This assists the efforts of this imperialist force and its lackeys against Islamic lands. Furthermore, the view that religious America must be preferred to the communists has become widespread. However, it must be noted that the oppressed religious masses in the United States have nothing in common with Reagan, who is the current guardian of the interests of capitalist imperialism in the United States.

It is true that we Muslims feel closer to oppressed religious masses in different parts of the world than to atheists and irreligious elements. However, just because they have had the phrase "In God We Trust" printed on U.S. currency, we cannot regard these idolatrous and oppressive elements -- who have [illegible] leaders of the oppressed religious people through imperialist intrigues -- as being religious. These imperialist infidels may believe in something. However, even if we believe that they do have a deity, that is to say, a god, the god Reagan and his fellow brigands believe in has nothing in common with the deity of the Muslims -- God Almighty. Their deity is unreal.

President Reagan has said that they cannot remain indifferent toward the future of the Iranian Islamic Republic because of this country's strategic importance. He has said that the United States is still suffering due to its loss of control over Iran. He has also added that the United States will do the Muslims a favor by ensuring that Iran continues to maintain its territorial integrity and independence. While stating all this, President Reagan also noted the possibility of a Soviet move in the Persian Gulf -- a remark no doubt aimed at gaining points among certain naive Muslims. Some may rise to express their appreciation and gratitude to the United States. They may say: Well done, America. While Iranians continue to chant slogans such as "Death to America" the United States continues to defend Iran against the Soviet Union.

Isn't this the atmosphere the United States is endeavoring to create? The U.S. intention is to intimidate the Muslim masses with the communist threat and to have them accept the view that a desperate man will grab on to anything to save himself from drowning.

However, let us put other states and puppet regimes to one side and stress that our target is Mr Reagan. The Iranian Islamic state and the Hezbollahi Muslims, who have claimed ownership of this state, are resolutely determined to defend Islamic lands against both Soviet and U.S. imperialism. Moreover, they are determined to defend these lands against all attacks by the infidels. In this endeavor they draw their strength from God Almighty.

It is because of this that we are aware of the fact that remarks such as "We shall defend Iran's territorial integrity and independence" and "We cannot remain indifferent toward Iran's future" are based on the great appetite of the imperialists and not on any humanitarian anxiety. Past experiences make it clear today that when imperialist countries begin to talk about the territorial integrity of a country and the necessity of respecting that country's independence, they actually begin to plot against the independence and territorial integrity of the country they are talking about.

Therefore, we state that Iranian Muslims do not recognize anyone's right to speak about Iran's independence and territorial integrity. Nor do we expect any guarantee from anyone in this respect.

U.S. POLICY, 'SUPPORT' FOR KHOMEYNI SCORED

NC231653 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 23 Jan 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The remarks by the U.S. State Department spokesman on Thursday about Ruhollah Khomeyni's regime and the future of Iran makes it necessary to once again study Washington's political intentions in Iran and the area.

Compatriots: In everything that the U.S. spokesman said two themes are repeated: The first is that Washington doesn't oppose Khomeyni's regime and, according to its flagrant confession, it recognizes the mullahs' revolution and supports Ruhollah Khomeyni's regime. In addition, U.S. interests are above all other considerations.

[Apparently] the systematic [words indistinct] and massacre of a nation does not provide any justification for protest and has no place in Washington's political calculations as long as no harm comes to its interests.

On the contrary, the U.S. leaders, who have always (?preached the ideal of freedom and human rights), support the most sinister regimes as the guardians of their interests wherever vital U.S. interests are concerned. (?Today too) Washington's declaration of support for Khomeyni's murderous regime and its praises for the bloody and wretched Islamic revolution is nothing more than a step toward the preservation of the same interests that the United States considers vital.

What is surprising today is that after the revelation of the abominable nature of the Islamic revolution and the inhumane nature of Ruhollah Khomeyni regime, Washington's policy contines to be one of support for this disgraced and disreputable regime. The hopes for the continuation of the mullahs' regime and the expression of support for it not only tramples on the ideal of freedom held by the United States, but it also rubs salt on the deep wound of the Iranian nation.

Compatriots: As it has always been clear to you and as the U.S. spokesman has stressed, the United States and any other superpower only thinks of ensuring its strategic and vital interests and works only within the framework of its colonialist (?intentions). While our nation has (?started) its pitiless war against a ursuping and (?oppressive) regime, what humane (?principles) and political (?objectives) guide the U.S. planners (?to support such a regime) and to declare that [words indistinct] result from revolutionary chaos and, as a result, to not only endorse [words indistinct] (?this regime)? [Words indistinct] have no place in our nation. The ideal of freedom, on which the United States (?relies) is mere talk. U.S. policy [words indistinct] (?is based on U.S. interests).

A superpower [words indistinct] that endorses Khomeyni's regime [words indistinct] (?will not benefit from this initiative). The least that Washington (?could have done) [words indistinct] would have been to (?set aside) its imam-nurturing policy, to stay impartial and (?to allow) the Iranian nation to advance its justice-seeking struggle in these difficult times.

Our nation [words indistinct] (?is well aware) of its sensitive strategic position and it will (?wisely) undertake, by itself, the duty of preserving [words indistinct] (?and reply to those who seek to profit).

CLANDESTINE LAUDS KURDS' ANTIREGIME STANCE

NC271328 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Compatriots: Sheykh Ezeddin Hoseyni -- a person who has crossed swords with Khomeyni for almost 3 years -- has sent his representative, Mohsen Salehi, to Europe to contact revolutionary and progressive forces that want true democracy and freedom for Iran. Salehi will reiterate to them that there is no other path than the one chosen by the Kurds to uproot the regime of the mullahs.

Actually, in the heat of the revolution, the Kurds adopted a policy which -- if adopted by others -- would change the situation in Iran from what the world is witnessing now. The Kurds did not display the naivete of the leader of the National Front, Dr Sanjabi, who, a Kurd himself, thought that if he signed a pact of unity with Khomeyni, the latter would withdraw on the second day of the revolution and assign the National Front to the country's administration forever. They knew that, as Khomeyni put it, one should not trust. They knew that someone who is deceived is preparing the grounds for his decimation with his own hands.

The Kurds did not act as foolishly as Bazargan, who thought he could close the Council of Experts without any repercussions. The Kurds had understood beforehand that the Council of Experts was a plot against Iran's freedom and democracy. Therefore, they did not send a representative to this council so as not to involve themselves in this great treason -- the implementation of which was being prepared to pave the ground for Khomeyni's theocracy.

The Kurds were not deceived by the Tudeh Party, which continuously paid great lipservice to the struggle against imperialism and believed that Khomeyni should be given a free hand in the struggle he was apparently carrying out against the Americans, that he should not be resisted and that his wishes should not be obstructed or hampered.

Unlike Bani-Sadr, Madani and others, the Kurds never allowed themselves to become prisoners of the imagination, fancying that if they came to terms with Khomeyni through friendship and peace, they would later on, and at favorable opportunities, free themselves from his clutches and put before him a fait accompli.

From the very first day, the Kurds showed themselves as sincere freedom fighters. From the very first day they mistrusted Khomeyni and his turbaned coterie. From the very first day, they tread carefully so they would not have to regret anything later. They did not oppose the idea of Iran calling its regime an Islamic Republic, but they opposed the facts that the Iranian nation was not ruling its destiny and that our people's representatives did not fully participate in the Constituent Assembly and in laying the foundations of this republic.

Khomeyni's Council of Experts was a machination aimed at divesting the nation of its sovereignty and at appointing a guardian as if it were an immature child.

On the day when Bazargan became aware of this plot he thought that Khomeyni would be left in a muddle and the plan foiled if the Provisional Government dissolved the Council of Experts. But Bazargan was unaware of the fact that Khomeyni had thought of all eventualities. As soon as Khomeyni was informed that the Provisional Government had issued a decree dissolving the Council of Experts, he got rid of the Provisional Government in such a way that for a long time the Iranian people did not know why the occupation of the U.S. Embassy and the hostage taking caused the fall of the government and left the country without a government, and why Khomeyni called this a "revolution within a revolution."

They did not know why the National Front, the Mojahedin-e Khalq, the Cherikha-ye Feda'i and other groups that were close to Khomeyni until then were all paralyzed and none of them was able to take the least action.

Gradually, such favorable grounds were created that, as Dr Ayat put it, Khomeyni decided to change the (?wave) and submit the country entirely to the mullahs.

If Khomeyni's plot succeeded it was because none of the groups and individuals, who were sacrificed for this plot, heeded the Kurds' repeated warnings that they should not blindly and mutely surrender to remarks that did not conform with the principles of Iran's revolution.

The Iranian people had not revolted to hand over, with due respect, the chains of their captivity to Khomeyni. The Iranian people had revolted to break the chains of captivity forever. The Iranian people had revolted to gain the right to determine their country's future themselves. The Iranian people revolted to build a free, flourishing and democratic Iran in all fields, where true justice -- in the exact sense of the word -- (?could be implemented), and so that people of our country could stand proudly and in freedom among the family of nations as well as show with deeds their capability and (?their outstanding nature).

What the Kurds said was how can Khomeyni be trusted when he -- repeatedly having said that after the revolution's victory the Constituent Assembly should determine Iran's regime -- is now going back on his word; when Khomeyni -- who had himself appointed Bazargan to form a government, one of the duties of which was to form the Constituent Assembly -- is now changing his mind and is saying that a Council of Experts on the Islamic sharia' should be formed. How can this Khomeyni be trusted not to play other nasty tricks tomorrow, as he later extended the term of the Majlis, which was only supposed to study the draft constitution compiled by the government for 1 month, contrary to all principles so that it could write a new law which Khomeyni himself wanted?

Today, Iran would not be the Iran that has stunned the world with the terror of (?despotism) and crimes, if the Mojahedin-e Khalq, who have today again become active, had run to the help of the Kurds, if the Feda'iyan and Peykar members -- who have now (?devoted their lives) and are being killed in groups -- the Bani-Sadrs, Madanis, Bazargans, [name indistinct], Sanjabis and others, who are now confronting the regime, had come to their senses in unison with the Kurds, had awakened after the Kurds' warnings, were not fooled by Khomeyni's collusions and had stood up in front of him. [Had they helped], a bunch of impostor and (?hypocrite) mullahs would not have made a hell out of a country that could have been paradise on earth -- in which 36 million are putting up with deprivation and (?have attached their hopes for relief) [words indistinct].

Apparently, after the Khorasanis, the Gilanis, the Mazandaranis, the Bakhtiaris and the Azarbayjanis, it is now the destiny of the Kurds to be the torchbearers on the path of freedom and democracy in Iran.

May God be with you, Oh brave Kurdish peshmerga. The hope of a nation is turned to you and to your (?untiring struggles) for Iran's future salvation.

STRIKE REPORTED AT SHIRAZ OIL REFINERY

NC271646 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] A Free Voice of Iran correspondent has reported that workers of the Shiraz oil refinery have gone on strike. The workers have not reported to work (?up to an extent) and have announced that they will not return to work if their demands are not met. Our correspondent reports that the Shiraz oil refinery workers strike is at the request of organizations and groups opposing Khomeyni's regime. Strikes and slowdowns in factories and its units (?started) in Iran some time ago. The Shiraz oil refinery workers have issued a statement demanding that Khomeyni's regime free political prisoners and stop executions without trials.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 772

LD271754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Communique 772 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. In operations, the defenders of the Islamic revolution fired on enemy positions and supply routes and succeeded in inflicting losses and casualties on the aggressors. An exchange of fire continued across the Shatt al-'Arab, and one enemy assembly building on the opposite bank was destroyed by our forces' fire. A number of servicemen in the building were either killed or wounded.

In the Abadan and Khuninshahr operational zones, our naval personnel, by opening fire on enemy positions, destroyed two enemy observation posts and one trench. Yesterday several residential areas in Abadan were destroyed as a result of enemy heavy-weapon fire, and a number of our compatriots in that city were either martyred or wounded.

Thanks to artillery fire by the ground forces on the Shush and Reqabiyeh fronts, 6 Saddamist trenches, 1 tank and its crew and 3 vehicles were set ablaze and at least 20 enemy servicemen were either killed or wounded.

In the region west of Dezful, our combat units, by opening intense fire, caused a decrease in enemy fire on their own positions. Our units destroyed 1 enemy tank and killed 10 Iraqi servicemen.

In the Dasht-e 'Abbas and Eyn Khosh regions, too, our forces, by opening fire on enemy positions, killed 10 aggressive Iraqi Army servicemen, destroyed 10 of their trenches and silenced their fire.

An exchange of fire continued on the western fronts. The exchange was sporadic in the Salehabad and Meymak region, causing enemy losses.

In the Sumar and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab regions our forces destroyed several enemy trenches and 2 vehicles and killed or wounded 16 of their servicemen. Enemy loading areas and tank positions in the regions were also damaged. Thanks to artillery fire by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Gilan-e Gharb area, seven Iraqi servicemen were either killed or wounded.

At 1620 on 25 January counterrevolutionaries attacked a military column in the vicinity of Miando'ab. They caused damage and either martyred or wounded a number of our military brothers, but, thanks to a counterattack by the servicemen in the column, the counterrevolutionaires were forced to flee.

In the 25 January battles on the southern and western fronts, one combatant of our Ground Forces and one of the fighters of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran attained the rank of martyrdom. May their souls be happy!

AFP: IRAN HOLDS 8,000 IRAQI PRISONERS OF WAR

NC271732 Paris AFP in English 1658 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 27 Jan (AFP) -- Iran holds 8,000 Iraqis as prisoners of war, mostly in Tehran, an Interior Ministry spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today.

He said a special committee will be set up this week to study methods of enabling the families of Iraqi war prisoners to visit Iran and Iranian families to visit Iranian war prisoners in Iraq.

Iran and Iraq reached an agreement on the visits yesterday through the mediation of United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The committee will consist of Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri, Chief of Staff Zahirnezhad, Revolutionary Guards Chief Mohsen Rez'ai, and a vice-premier. The committee will determine all details of the visits, the spokesman said.

In Geneva, a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said the ICRC is ready to help implement the Iranian-Iraqi agreement, but has not yet received any request to that effect. Reports from UN headquarters in New York said responsibility for carrying out the agreement would be given to ICRC President Alexandre Hay.

AFGHAN MUJAHIDIN KILL 60 SOVIETS IN SKIRMISH

GF271706 Tehran International Service in Urdu 1415 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] During a skirmish that has taken place between the Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet forces in the village of (Surkha Khan), north of Kabul, the mujahidin have killed 60 Soviet soldiers and destroyed several Soviet armored vehicles. The report [as heard] adds that 45 Muslim Afghan mujahidin were martyred during a Soviet helicopter raid on a village north of Kabul.